REMARKS

This application has been reviewed in light of the Office Action dated June 20, 2003. Claims 1-25 are presented for examination, and have been amended to define more clearly what Applicant regards as his invention. Claims 1, 9, 17, and 25 are in independent form. Favorable reconsideration is requested.

A Claim To Priority and a certified copy of the priority document for this application were filed on December 29, 2000, as evidenced by the returned receipt postcard bearing the stamp of the Patent and Trademark Office, a copy of which is attached hereto. Applicant respectfully requests acknowledgment of the claim for foreign priority and the receipt of the certified copy of the priority document.

Claims 8, 16, and 24 were objected to. Applicants have amended the phrase "graphic-driver-interface (GDI)" to --graphic device interface--. Accordingly, Applicants submit that this objection has been obviated.

Claims 3, 5, 7, 8, 11, 13, 15, 16, 19, 21, 23, and 24 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite.

The claims have been carefully reviewed and amended as deemed necessary to ensure that they conform fully to the requirements of Section 112, second paragraph, with special attention to the points raised in paragraph 3 of the Office Action. Specifically, claims 7, 15, and 23 have been amended, among other things, to replace the term "description instruction" with --first printing instruction--. Support for this may be found at least on pages 16, line 12, to page 19, line 21, and in particular, page 17, lines 17-20. Claims 5, 13, and 21, have been amended, among other things, to replaced the term "restriction-information obtaining means" with --restriction obtaining means--. Support for

this may be found at least in Figures 22 and 23, and the accompanying description on pages 56, line 22 to page 57, line 5. Claims 8, 16, and 24 have been amended as noted above. It is believed that the rejection under Section 112, second paragraph, has been obviated, and its withdrawal is therefore respectfully requested.

Claims 1-7, 9-15, 17-23, and 25 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,469,796 (*Leiman et al.*), and claims 8, 16, and 24 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Leiman et al.*

As shown above, Applicants have amended independent claims 1, 9, 17, and 25 in terms that more clearly define the present invention. Applicants submit that these amended independent claims, together with the remaining claims dependent thereon, are patentably distinct from the cited prior art for at least the following reasons.

The aspect of the present invention set forth in claim 1 is an information processing apparatus for generating printing data to be transmitted to a printing apparatus. The information processing apparatus includes spool means, setting-information obtaining means, display control means, setting edit means, and print job generation means. The spool means temporarily stores data to be printed in an intermediate-code format with first print-setting information designated via a user interface by a printer drive, where the data is generated by an application program. The setting-information obtaining means obtains the first print-setting information from the data temporarily stored in the spool means in the intermediate-code format. The display control means controls a display of a user interface for editing the first print-setting information of the data temporarily stored in the spool means in the intermediate-code format as second print-setting information. The setting edit means relates the second print-setting information, edited by the user interface, to the data

stored in the intermediate-code format and temporarily stores them. The print job generation means generates a print job described in a page description language based on the data stored in the spool means in the intermediate-code format and the edited print setting. The display control means controls to restrict items of the first print-setting information and to display other items of the first print-setting information which can be edited by the user interface.

Among the important features of claim 1 are editing the first print-setting information of the data temporarily stored in the spool means in the intermediate-code format as second print-setting information and controlling to restrict items of the first print-setting information and displaying other items of the first print-setting information which can be edited by the user interface, as depicted in Figures 21A-C.[1]

Leiman et al. relates to open printing systems automatically routing print jobs from different types of source computers to different types of printers without the source computers selecting the printers for each print job. In the *Leiman et al.* system, the print job has already been created by a client and the print server is limited to the operations listed on column 8, lines 1-4, which includes "Hold", "Release", "Delete", "Copy", etc. As far as Applicants can tell, all the operations that can be performed on a print job in this passage is limited to those operations listed. Nothing in this portion (or any other portion) of *Leiman et al.* is seen to teach or suggest editing the first print-setting information of the data temporarily stored in the spool means in the intermediate-code format as second print-setting information via a user interface. Further, nothing has been

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1/It is to be understood, of course, that the claim scope is not limited by the details of the described embodiments, which are referred to only to facilitate explanation.

found in *Leiman et al.* that would teach or suggest controlling to restrict items of the first print-setting information and displaying other items of the first print-setting information which can be edited by the user interface, as recited in claim 1.

For at least these reasons, claim 1 is deemed clearly allowable over *Leiman et al.*

Independent claims 9, 17, and 25 are method, computer-executable program, and storage medium claims, respectively, corresponding to apparatus claim 1, and are believed to be patentable for at least the same reasons as discussed above in connection with claim 1.

A review of the other art of record has failed to reveal anything which, in Applicants' opinion, would remedy the deficiencies of the art discussed above, as a reference against the independent claims herein. Those claims are therefore believed patentable over the art of record.

The other rejected claims in this application depend from one or another of the independent claims discussed above, and, therefore, are submitted to be patentable for at least the same reasons. Since each dependent claim is also deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, individual reconsideration of the patentability of each claim on its own merits is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully request favorable reconsideration and early passage to issue of the present application.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York Office by telephone at (212) 218-2100. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our address listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

Z{ P. Diam

Attorney for Applicant

Registration No. 29,296

FITZPATRICK, CELLA, HARPER & SCINTO
30 Rockefeller Plaza
New York, New York 10112-3801
Facsimile: (212) 218-2200
NY_MAIN 382982

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Director, the Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

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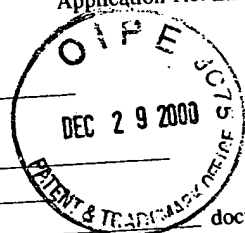☐ Issue fee transmittal and Check for $ _____
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